



Daniel T. Chavka

Associate

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Daniel T. Chavka focuses his practice on the preparation and prosecution of patent applications involving mechanical, electromechanical, and software technologies. His former experience as a U.S. patent examiner provides an inside perspective of the Patent Office and helps him secure patent protection for the inventions of his clients with minimal examination delays. He routinely conducts interviews with patent examiners to focus the issues in prosecution and has extensive experience appealing applications to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Mr. Chavka works closely with clients to understand their business goals and the competitive landscape so that he can craft and prosecute their patent applications in a strategic manner. Mr. Chavka enjoys working on the cutting edge of technology and is passionate about finding creative ways to protect the inventions of his clients.

Practices

- Patent Prosecution

Industries

- Automotive & Transportation
- Industrial & Mechanical Technologies

Representative Experience

Mr. Chavka has represented clients in diverse areas of technology, including:

- Automotive brake systems and components
- Bearings
- Bottling systems
- Control Valves
- Data encryption and storage
- Digital image processing and formation

- Electric motors
- Electrochromatic glass
- Electron gun sterilization devices
- Engine and suspension control systems
- Heat exchangers
- Insurance related software applications
- Medical devices
- MEMS sensors
- Missile guidance systems
- Packaging machines and processes
- Printer components and ink
- Seal arrangements
- Semiconductor fabrication
- Touch screens
- Turbines

Background and Credentials

Prior to joining Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP, Mr. Chavka was a patent attorney for a large Washington D.C. area law firm. He also worked as a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office where he examined medical device applications directed to stents, prosthetic heart valves and surgical instruments. His industry experience includes working as a mechanical engineer at Caterpillar, Inc. where he designed and performed field tests on prototype track-type tractors and other earthmoving equipment.

Mr. Chavka received his J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law, where he was associate editor of the *Chicago-Kent Intellectual Property Law Journal*. He holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering, with honors, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mr. Chavka also completed an English minor at Illinois.

Education

- Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology (J.D.)
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (B.S.)
 - Mechanical Engineering

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- Virginia
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Publications and Presentations

- “Illinois Manufacturers’ Association Breakfast Briefings 2016,” Co-Presenter, February 17, 2016.
- “Federal Circuit Changes Standard For Evaluating Means-Plus-Function Claims,” Co-Author, *Marshall Gerstein Alert*, June 18, 2015.
- “Fallout from *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank*: A Patent Prosecutor’s Perspective,” CLE Presentation, August 2014.
- “Recent Patent Office Examination Guidelines Addressing Means-Plus-Function Claim Limitations,” CLE Presentation, November 2011.